

RANCHO SANTIAGO COLLEGE

**Student poll
on the
Summit
See
page 3**

el Don

**Down for
the count?
See
page 8**

Volume LXII No. 7

Rancho Santiago College 17th at Bristol Santa Ana, California 92706 714-541-6064

October 17, 1986

RSC presented Title 3 check

by Lana Bowen
el Don

RSC was recently presented with \$194,693 thousand, from the competitive Title 3 grant. Over the course of the next three years funds from this source may total up to \$600 thousand.

"In the next three years it will total over \$500 thousand, it may even get close to \$600 thousand," said Dr. Robert Kimberling, assistant secretary of postsecondary education for the United States Department of Education.

The title 3 grant is to aid transition of immigrants, those new to Orange County, and non-traditional students into the mainstream, enabling them to obtain credentials from higher sources of education, according to Kimberling.

"We take a look at the instructional mission, the community, and how they are served. Then provide additional funding so the developmental activity can be sped up," Kimberling said.

Speaking of how colleges and universities are chosen to receive the grant, Kimberling said, "Colleges send in proposals, they are read by peer reviewers (administrators, and faculty of other colleges,) then they are judged for the quality of their major objectives."

Dr. Ruth cancelled

by Ruth McGinnis
el Don

The old adage that "sex sells" did not hold true on the RSC campus Saturday night, October 11, when Dr. Ruth Westheimer was scheduled to speak.

Westheimer's nationally aired "Sexually Speaking" program, as well as her books, tapes, movies and games, failed to lure Orange Countians out for an evening of entertainment.

Because of sagging ticket sales, Westheimer's \$15,000 contract could not be met and the event was put to bed.

See RUTH page 2

This isn't the first year RSC applied for the grant, as a matter of fact, it is the second. "It was like the little engine that could. That takes dedication; and RSC did it," said Kimberling.

"One reason we pushed so hard for the grant is that it represents Secretary Bennett, Congressman Robert Dornan, and President Reagan's philosophy of getting back to basics, for without education there is no future for America," said Brian Bennett, representative for Dornan.

Giving credit to the staff and faculty of RSC, Rodolfo Montejano, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "I'd like to congratulate the staff of the college. They are in the frontline. They drafted the grant proposal, brought ideas to us, and make it work. Please continue the tremendous job you are doing."

Election 1986



IN THE MONEY — Dr. Robert Kimberling, at left, presents a symbolic check to board member Rudolfo Montejano, representing monies for the first year of the Title 3 Grant. Also shown at right is Sally Dornan, wife of Rep. Robert Dornan.

Clint McKinney/*el Don*

Two issues that effect you: Proposition 56 Proposition 61

by Toni Mazzacane
el Don

College students throughout the state will be effected by the outcome of the Higher Education Facilities Bond Act of 1986, better known as Proposition 56, in the November 4 election.

This act provides for a bond issue of \$400 million to provide capital for construction or improvement of facilities at California's public higher education institutions, including the University of California's nine campuses, the California State University's 19 campuses and the California Community College's 106 campuses.

In the text of the proposal for proposition 56, it explains that capital will be generated through the sale of \$400 million in general obligation bonds, which are backed by the state, meaning that the state will use its taxing power to assure that enough money is available to pay off the bonds. The people who buy these bonds are not required to pay state income tax on the interest they earn. Therefore, if California taxpayers buy these bonds instead of making taxable investments, the state would collect less taxes.

The fiscal effects of the proposition also include the paying off of loans to Community Colleges. The measure will appropriate future revenue from the state's tidelands oil to replace any bond money lent to the community colleges. The amount required for this purpose would depend on the amount of money lent to the community colleges.

The \$400 million generated from the sale of these bonds will

See PROP. 56 page 2

by Toni Mazzacane
el Don

Proposition 61, a constitutional amendment, proposes to substantially change the laws governing compensation for state and local government and local elected officials and employees.

The propositions' official (and lengthy) title is Compensation of Public Officials, Employees, Individual Public Contractors, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute." The measure, if passed, would dramatically alter, not only the amount on the paychecks of state and local elected officials and employees, but would also change the way a raise is approved.

Currently, the state and local governments have discretion in setting the salaries and fringe benefits of elected officials (such as the Governor, judges and city council members), and the salaries may be increased without voter approval. Supporters of proposition 61 hope to turn over the responsibility of approving raises to the voters.

The main provisions of the measure include increasing the Governor's annual salary from \$49,100 to \$80,000, and adds the requirement of having voters approve any future increases. It also sets the annual salary other constitutional officers (such as the State Treasurer and Controller) to \$52,500. In addition, the measure limits the salaries of all other state and local officials (including employees of Rancho Santiago Community College District) to \$64,000. In the future these salaries could only be increased with the voters approval.

The measure uses both the terms "compensation" and

See PROP. 61 page 2

Rancho Santiago Community College
Santa Ana Campus Library

Campus Update

LAST CHANCE! If you have always dreamed of being a king or queen for a day, here's your chance. Applications are being accepted through October 17 for Homecoming queen and king. All clubs, organizations and teams are encouraged to sponsor a candidate. Requirements for candidates include being enrolled in at least 7 units, GPA of 2.0 and the application must be turned in by 3 p.m. Call 667-3098 for more details.

RSC DAYS AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN. Discount tickets for Magic Mountain are available for only \$7.95 (regularly \$15.95) for the month of November. You can get them from the Student Activities Center. Call 667-3098 for information.

PLAN AHEAD! November 4 is election day. Don't forget to schedule some time to drop by your local polling place.

NEED A TUTOR? Free tutoring is available in a variety of subjects through the Learning Center. Why not check it out? To make an appointment call 667-3080 or visit the center on the second floor of the Library.

GET INVOLVED! You can be a student representative on a statewide Chancellor's committee. Various committees are in need of student input on issues concerning YOU. Students applying for these positions must be enrolled in at least 7 units and have a 2.0 GPA. For more information stop by the Student Activities Office or call 667-3098.

ASK A LAWYER. A free 20 minute legal consultation is available for all RSC students, staff and senior citizens. Just call 667-3098 to make an appointment with one of RSC's legal attorneys. Appointments may be made weekdays in the Student Activities Office.

DON'T WASTE GAS! Do you need a ride, or can you offer one? Stop by the "Ride/Share Carpool" wall in the Student Activities office and fill out an index card.

PROP. 56

From page 1

The \$400 million generated from the sale of these bonds will be spent over a two year period, specifically on accommodating increases in student enrollements, upgrading for earthquake, health and safety requirements and for

While the opposition states that "funding has increased substantially in recent budgets for higher education, yet the institutions did not spend their funds on building these 'needed facilities'." They also believe that "if this \$400 million item... is so urgent right now, then the legislature and the Governor should provide for it out of the regular

Prop. 56 will maintain and enhance the quality of California's public colleges and universities...

-proponents of prop. 56

adapting to new technology. In past years these things were paid for with income from state-owned oil fields.

Backers of the proposition claim "the decline in oil prices, which has benefited consumers, has at the same time sharply reduced the amount of money available for higher education facility needs." They also contend that proposition 56 will "maintain and enhance the quality of California's public colleges and universities by providing funds needed to modernize teaching and research facilities, improve health and safety and help ensure adequate space for increasing numbers of future students." (Backers of proposition 56 include State Senator, Gary K. Hart, California Governor, George Deukmejian and the president,

budget. Persons opposing proposition 56 include Nolan Frizzelle, O.D., a Member of the Assembly, 69th District and Don Sebastiani, a Member of the Assembly, 8th District.)

PROP. 61

From page 1

"salary" in its text, yet in an analysis by the Legislative Analyst contends that "Compensation" typically

payments for health, retirement and other benefits," and that it would be up to the courts to decide which it meant.

The initiative would not allow public employees to carry over unused vacation and sick leave from one calendar year to

would lose its best public servants to better paying jobs in other states and private business." The also claim that "the unfair salary limit violates basic principles of our American system: that skilled and talented people can earn their way up, and that competition determines salaries, not senseless regulation."

Proponents of the initiative counter that "the only way to stop the salaries from skyrocketing is to limit the salaries." Paul Gann, who opens the arguments in favor of proposition 61, that appear in the California Ballot Pamphlet, further states that "All proposition 61 says is the people have the right to set maximum salary limits for their elected and appointed officials — that limit is \$64,000 (a year)."

California would lose its best public servants...

-opponents of prop. 61

includes salary plus employer another. Opponents of the proposition argue that this would "put a straitjacket on California's economic future." They claim that under proposition 61 "workers would be mandated to use their earned sick leave and vacation time each year or lose it

forever," and "absenteeism would flourish."

They also fear that top law enforcement experts, top educators and doctors and researchers will suffer reduced paychecks, and that "California

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Unemployed high school dropouts between the ages of 17 and 21 who live in Santa Ana are eligible to participate in a program designed to help them obtain their General Education Diploma (GED), while working part-time for pay.

Funded by the Job Training Partnership Act (JPTA) and the Rancho Santiago Community College District, the four-month program offers classes

to upgrade reading and math skills and to prepare for the GED test. After passing the GED exam, students are assisted in finding permanent jobs.

There is no charge for books and fees for those who qualify. For more information contact the Rancho Santiago College's Language and Assessment Center, at 1381 W. 17th St., in Santa Ana, or call 667-3406.



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Opinion poll

Students disagree on Summit outcome

by Joan Medina
el Don

Photos by Peter Ricks
el Don

Last weekend, the Soviet Union and the United States met for a summit (or pre-Summit) in Reykjavik, Iceland. This particular meeting could have gone down in history, except for one small problem — after two days, nothing was accomplished.

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev had agreed on the following points:

- 1) Eliminate intermediate-range missiles from Europe;
- 2) Give each side only 100 such missiles elsewhere (Soviet East Asia and the US);
- 3) Ultimately eliminate those missiles, and substantially reduce the number of ballistic missiles in each side's arsenal, eventually leading to complete elimination.

However, the final point, and cause for rejection of the entire agreement, was the Soviets insistence that research and testing of missile defense systems be restricted to laboratory work for the next 10 years. This included Regan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), also known as "Star Wars".

Because Reagan refused to accept the final issue, no agreements were made. Reagan and Gorbachev, somber and exhausted, left Iceland with nothing to show for the 2 days of talks.

The question asked of students on Monday evening at RSC-Santa Ana was: How do you feel about President Reagan's stand for SDI, even at the sake of virtually total disarmament for both USSR and the US?

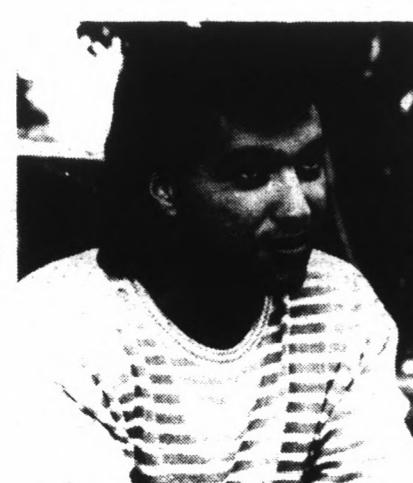
"I am totally opposed to Reagan. One statement of his, however, I have to agree. He said that he couldn't be involved in an agreement that future presidents could oppose. He wasn't thinking of just himself. If there was agreement on total disarmament, there would be no need for SDI. But, we can't trust each other. It's a draw in a chess match."

Desi Dixon, business administration



"I support Reagan. In order for the US to keep strong, we have to have some type of control or agreement. I believe the Soviets try to dominate. To keep freedom in other (democratic) countries, we have to have power to protect that freedom. We have to be dominate in other countries; power over the Soviets. We must protect freedom."

Tuan Nguyen, electronics



"I think it's all a setup for some political reasons, but I don't know what. It (agreements) would end up the same way; they would agree on something on TV, but would still do other things. That's what they've been doing all along."

Ali Sade, architecture



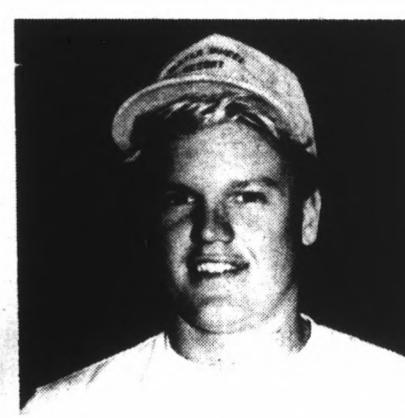
"I think he (Reagan) did a good thing. He did what was necessary."

Roxanne Scearce,
business law



"I am for it (Regan's decision). I think that if he agreed, Russia would have a strong hold over US, as far as arms control is concerned."

Mark Coleman, biology



"I agree with SDI. US should stand strong. The President's making decisions and doing what's best for US."

Keith Brandy, fire science

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4 Editorial

Turning transients from pillows to pillars in today's society

by Lana Bowen
el Don

Orange County accounts for a major portion of Southern California's wealth, yet an alarming number of people remain homeless.

It's about time to get the homeless off our streets and into society. Unfortunately, all we can do is aid them in their transition from street people to useful members of society.

Common excuses have been drug addiction, language barriers and lack of basic skills necessary to gain employment. These rationalizations are excuses.

If the transients of Orange County wanted to put an end to having to sleep on park benches, at bus stops or even on the lawns of RSC, they would take some initiative and begin a quest for a "real" life.

The rationalization, "I don't have any skills," doesn't hold water. There are plenty of occupations which can be obtained by unskilled workers.

Look, McDonald's is always hiring.

Those who attribute their situation to having a language barrier should find help in learning English, from bilingual transients. How difficult can it be to learn key phrases, which would consequently aid in the breakdown of the so-called language barrier?

It all seems to boil down to lack of incentive. If Orange County's homeless wanted to become a productive part of the society, they would apply for jobs, learn the language and stop rationalizing for their unfortunate situations.

There is no reason these people should live like nocturnal animals, who find it necessary to rummage through trash cans and dumpsters to find meals. Not only is this practice unhealthy, but also inane. All types of diseases can be contracted through the ingestion of these rancid foods.

They must like living on the streets, otherwise they would take the initiative, find a job, enabling them to enjoy the finer points of Orange County.



Bingo! This must be an election

by Norma Ory
el Don

Now is the time to praise all good men. Well that's what we should at least be thinking this time of year. Unfortunately election years have a tendency to assuage goodness for the sake of the body politic.

Sadly, supposedly rational men and women wrap themselves in the shield of democracy and cry foul! Generally for the sake of their political party and not for the sake of the political masses. In the past two weeks in California we have been witness to attacks and counter attacks by both the Republican and Democratic parties in the form of the "political commercial."

Biblically the saying goes, "when I was a child I spoke as a child," politically the saying goes, "now that I'm a political candidate, I behave as a child."

Through the use of the venerable weapons of radio and TV Californians have learned some incredibly enlightening "facts" about the anointed men and women of the electorate.

For instance Rose Bird changed her hair style and she wears tennis shoes to political functions, in of all places Australia. Additionally, we have seen through the eyes of a distraught mother, why Rose Bird caused the death of her young daughter. There is no mention of the fact that the man was tried and sentenced and is currently residing in a nice little cell in some place called death row.

Did you know that Mike Curb has consistently voted against anything democratic? Well Leo McCarthy (no relation to Joe) wants you the voting masses to know that Mike Curb didn't even vote until he was in his late twenties thus making him completely inept as a political leader.

Ed Zschau tells us he is glad to be a parent and that he likes to river raft.

I wonder if Alan Cranston likes to raft?

In fact, Zschau has attacked Cranston harshly and consistently. We have been told of how Cranston has the worst voting record on the hill. Personally what I would like to know

is, which hill? The one behind the house? Then of course we need to know which house.

Cranston has made himself into a political god of sorts in his commercials. Mainly we see him striding down the steps of the Capitol with several prominent Democratic leaders agog at his political aura.

Then in the immortal words of Bob Uecker, "BINGO" the day after the elections everything is right in California and the accusations cease and the political heartstrings strike only calm chords of democratic bliss. I think in E major but I'm not positive.

So what are we to think? Aye there's the political rub. They really don't care if we think, they only care if we agree. Remember that the sun shines bright deep in the heart of taxes and that I'll committee you if you'll vote for me.

So are we Californians ignorant? Are we caught up in the commercial rhetoric? Or are we the committed populace of voters that our constitution was established upon.

Anyway I can see it now. Somewhere in Hollywood there

is a script just for you and it has a great part for a lonely TV set just waiting to project you right into the senate.

How does that song go? "Oh yes I'm the great portender?"

el Don is the official newspaper of Rancho Santiago College, distributed weekly to the students and staff of the Rancho Santiago Community College District, by the students of Journalism at Rancho Santiago College.

Staff columns are the opinions of the author and not necessarily that of the *el Don* or Rancho Santiago College.

Letters to the Editor should be brief and to the point.

el Don reserves the right to edit letters as it sees fit.

Editor-in-Chief: Tracie M. Elenz
Sports Editor: Lowell Bennink
News Editor: Toni Mazzacane
Entertainment Editor: Jennifer McGlinchey
Nitewriter Editor: Joan Medina
EditorialOpinion: Lana Bowen

Staff Writers: Enrique Acevedo, Susan Anderson, Michael Brick, Mike D'Avis, John Hamilton, Vince Lara, Ruth McGinnis, John Overall, Ken Ryan,

Photographers: Rich Ackley, Vince Lara, Clint McKinney, Michael Brick, Lucien Philbrick, Peter Ricks, Steve Rinaldi, David Ross

Cartoons: Richard Quintana, Blair Davenport
Advertising Manager: Kelly Ward
Faculty Adviser: Charles Little

October 17, 1986 Volume LXII No. 7

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by Lana B
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Opinion 5

Do bilingual forms compensate for the language barriers?

by Lana Bowen

el Don

Many cultures enrich the land of Southern California, but with the cultures come a vast variety of languages.

Everything is bilingual, from some classes in elementary schools to government forms. While the bilingual classes are aiding foreign children to learn English, what comes of the adult citizens who still cannot speak the language? The government accommodates them by printing documents in their native tongues.

If they really wanted to become Americans they would learn the language characteristic of America, English. It shouldn't be a chore to learn the fundamentals of the English language, or at least enough to accurately understand a written driver's test, or voting ballot.

Every now and then, an English speaking citizen is handed a form intended for someone of a different mother tongue. At the DMV, some people wait for hours to receive these forms, then end up standing in line again to exchange the "foreign" one for another printed in English.

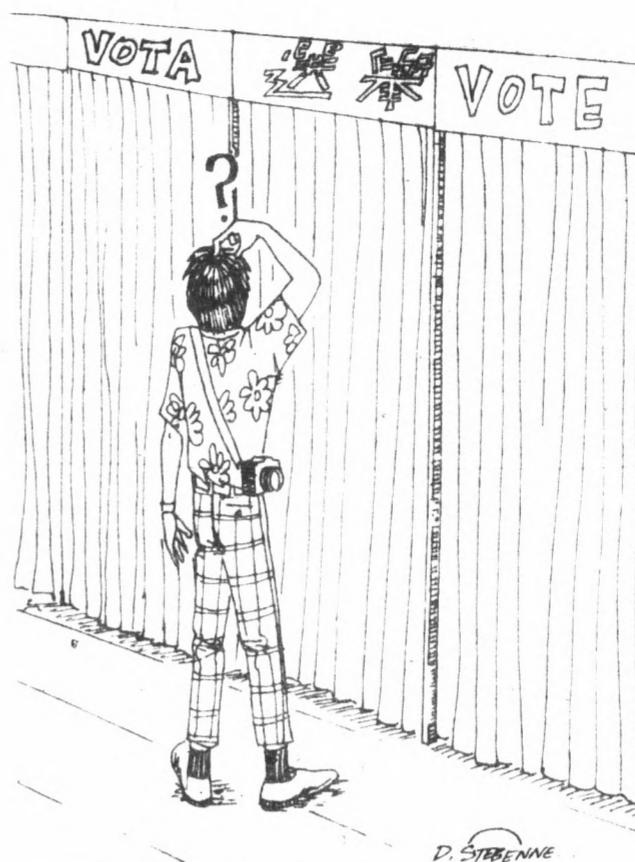
It's not just driver's tests but most government forms that require the input of the general public, of course this includes voting ballots. Now, honestly, how can a non-English speaking citizen know what candidate appropriately suits his tastes if he can't understand the candidate's campaign platform, due to a language barrier? And, yes, they still print the ballots in other languages.

Have you noticed many commercials for Alan Cranston, or Ed Zschau on stations whose primary

language is something other than English? Yet, the major networks are plastered with them.

With non-English speaking citizens randomly choosing candidates on the forms designed to accommodate their language barrier, it stands to reason that some candidates aren't elected by people who fully understand their platforms.

The question arises, "Why spend tax dollars on forms for people who may be throwing a wrench into the American voting system?" After all, aren't candidates supposed to be chosen because the general population agrees with his or her standards and platform? Again, Orange County is enhanced by the fact that it is multi-cultural, but are we going too far? Everyone has the right to speak his mother tongue, but why should it be pushed so far that it imposes on others?



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6 Entertainment

October 17, 1986 Volume LXII No. 7

Genesis 'Turns it on Again'

by Lowell Bennink
el Don

The group consists of a keyboardist that looks like an accountant, a guitar player that could play Goofy at Disneyland and a barrel-shaped balding lead singer.

Each have had platinum success on their own. You'd think that when they went back to their "Genesis," it would be a less than an enthusiastic reunion. Surprise!

Backed up by one of the better lighting shows to hit a rock stage (Steven Spielberg eat your heart out), Genesis came close to defining ecstasy

in concert at Jerry Buss' house, the Forum, Tuesday night in the second of five shows on their "Invisible Tour."

Once the lights dimmed, they pounded into hard edged version of "Mama" from their "Genesis" album. With the lights adding a stark touch, it made a promise of great things to come.

For the rest of the concert, what Genesis lacked in entertainment they made up in volume by literally vibrating the entire Forum when Phil Collins and touring drummer Chester Thompson played dual drum solos. Who said drum solos can't be interesting?

During the whole concert the audience was made to feel like part of the show. One of Collins' best stunts was to have the sold out crowd raise their arms and wail like idiots until he convinced them they had raised the Forum.

The album "Invisible Touch" wasn't one of their better projects, but on stage they were let to breathe. All but one or two cuts from the album were played.

The rest of the songs ran the range of Genesis' last three albums, with a couple of ventures back to the Peter Gabriel days. They included "Abacab," "That's All," and

"Home by the Sea," among others.

The bizarre lighting sequence, which ranged from lighting the entire arena to focusing on certain members of the group to rotating rainbow sequences. At certain points, when the multicolored spinning lights combined with the potent fog machine, it looked like Captain Kirk was about to exit the starship Enterprise.

But Genesis really turned it on with their encore romp through "Turn it on Again." Half way through the song Collins donned a black hat, sunglasses and began quoting

the "immortal duo" of Jake and Elwood Blues.

From there the group launched into a ranging medley of pop and rock hits that included "You've Lost That Loving Feeling," "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" and "Twist and Shout." Though Genesis didn't show an extreme amount of talent during the medley, I doubt very many other groups had as much fun.

Genesis continues their great shows through tonight at the Forum in Inglewood. Tickets are still available at Ticketmaster and the Forum.

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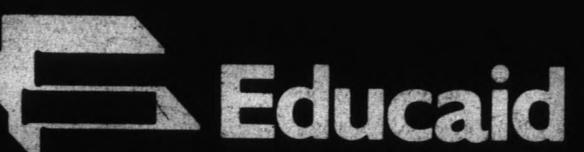
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October 17,

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by Lowell Bennink
el Don

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by Ron D'A
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Sports 7

Cook sizzles, Dons fizzle

Mesa's Sturch passes, RSC defense passes out

by Lowell Bennink
el Don

Although RSC quarterback John Cook sizzled, completing 20 of 34 passes for 180 yards, he couldn't light enough of a fire under the Don offense as they were torched by the Olympians of San Diego Mesa, 31-19.

The Dons scored first, seemingly moving at will with four first downs on their first six

plays, to set up Darryl Willis' 34-yard field goal. The Don defense all but shut down San Diego Mesa on their first two drives, making it look like the night might be easy for RSC.

But the night was still young. Three plays into the second quarter San Diego Mesa put their first points on the board with a 3-yard run into the end zone. Two drives later the Olympians took a seven point lead when they nailed a 27 yard

field goal.

RSC wasn't finished with their first half scoring, though.

In the Dons last possession of the half Cook burned the Olympians secondary, driving the Dons 80 yards in 12 plays for the touchdown. Cook completed 8 passes for 70 yards and took the ball 1 yard on the scoring run, giving the Dons a 10-10 tie at halftime.

San Diego scored the only points in the third with a 17-yard touchdown pass.

RSC cut San Diego's lead to four in the fourth with Willis' 22-yard field goal. It was the closest RSC would get for the rest of the game.

The Olympians scored on their next possession, but RSC roared back into it with James

Shipp's 62-yard romp for RSC's second touchdown, leaving the Dons down 24-19.

The Dons, knowing they wouldn't have many more chances at getting back in the game, tried for a two point conversion. Cook didn't get good protection from his line and had to hurry a shovel pass to keep from getting sacked. It was intercepted.

The door was slammed by the Olympians when they drove 70 yards late in the fourth to put the score where it was at the end, 31-19.

RSC, in the last possession of the game, tried to save a little face. The Dons moved all the way into San Diego territory before Cook's pass, with time running out, fell into the hands

of a San Diego defender. It was bad, but it could have been worse.

The ball was returned 97 yards, all the way back to the RSC 2, where San Diego tripped up their own man.

RSC's running game was led by John Shipp, who gained 100 yards on 10 carries. Glenn Campbell contributed 76 yards on 15 carries to RSC's cause.

Cook was sacked only three times by San Diego Mesa's defense and tossed two interceptions. RSC coughed up the ball once on a fumble, giving them a total of three turnovers.

RSC's next game will be tomorrow against Southwestern at Southwestern. Kick off will be at 7:30 p.m.

Pampered jocks: the new 'bonus-babies'

by Ron D'Avis
el Don

Are professional athletes pampered? Consider these three situations.

Recently Rich "Goose" Gossage of the San Diego Padres did what every working person in America would love to do. He got mad at his employers and told them off.

Gossage publicly criticized the Padre management on the way they run the ballclub. Their ban on beer in the Padre clubhouse especially ruffled Goose's feathers. Gossage even accused team owner Joan Kroc, widow of Ray Kroc, founder of McDonalds, of "poisoning the world with her hamburgers." Look for a new item to appear on the McDonalds menu - Goose McNuggets.

The penalty for Gossage's remarks? Suspension for the rest of the year from a last place team and an early start on hunting season, one of Gossage's favorite pastimes.

Napolean McCallum works for the US Navy during the week and then plays for the Los Angeles Raiders on Sundays. This comes a year after the Naval Academy granted McCallum an unprecedented fifth year of football eligibility because he sat out one season with injuries.

Last summer, major league baseball players, including Keith Hernandez and Dave Parker admitted in a US Federal court that they had used drugs. They testified only after being granted immunity from prosecution. The first game back after testifying, Hernandez was greeted with a lengthy standing ovation, presumably for his courage and honesty.

These three cases are just a sample of the ways in which professional athletes of today are pampered and spoiled. We look up to them so much that they can get away with anything they please. Don't get me wrong, I love sports and I admire these guys for their tremendous athletic prowess, but sometimes it seems our sense of admiration goes way too far.

We seem to structure the rules of society to fit the athletes instead of expecting the athletes to conform to the "normal" rules of society. Are they so special that they can be exceptions to the rules and above the law? Last time I checked, these guys were still human beings, just like you and me (well, maybe a little richer than you and me, but mere human beings nonetheless).

What would happen if average Joe American like you or me were in the three situations mentioned earlier?

If I dumped on my boss the way Gossage did, not only for the way he ran the business, but on his outside interests as well, I'd be out on the streets looking for new employment faster than you could say, "Two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun."

Picture yourself as an ensign in the US Navy. You go to your superior officers and ask them a favor. Could you possibly serve Uncle Sam during the week and then go out on the road to play bass for The Grateful Dead on the weekends? I can see it now: 20 years of KP duty.

If it were broadcast on the 6 o'clock news that I had used cocaine while at my job, I'd be whisked off to jail so fast the spoon would fall out of my nose. I bet I'd get a nice standing ovation behind bars. Heck, if I were granted immunity, I'd even confess to cheating on that math test in seventh grade.

Society must realize that these people are just people and nothing more. What do they have that they can be above the laws that the rest of us have to abide by? Take away the money and the fame and surprise, they are just like us, not demi-gods. On the field we may look up to them for their athletic ability, but that admiration should stop the minute they cross the white lines.



WHEN YOU'RE HOT, YOU'RE HOT- But when you're not, you're not. RSC's football team fell to San Diego Mesa, 31-19, to round their record out at 2-2 overall, 1-2 in conference play.

Lucien Philbrick / *el Don*

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8Sports

October 17, 1986 Volume LXII No. 1

Ernie Chavez: fighting against fate

by Lee Scheide
el Don

When the alarm rang in Ernie Chavez's ear last April 1st, little did he know that fate was about to play a very cruel joke.

In Texas for the American Boxing Congress National Championships, Chavez was up at 5 a.m. to do his roadwork. Running with him was another boxer from the Orange County Boxing Club, Milford Kemp.

The two athletes left their Beaumont hotel, jogging easily along the side of the road. Running in a brightly lit area, the boxers concentrated on the road ahead of them.

As Kemp ran 10 yards ahead, Chavez, a firefighting student at Rancho Santiago College, heard the sound of an car engine accelerating behind him. Turning quickly, he saw a blue truck bearing down upon him.

The next thing he remembers is Kemp kneeling over him, asking him if he was alright.

And, at first it seemed that he was. Checking himself out carefully, Chavez couldn't find anything wrong. Just some bruises and for that he considered himself lucky.

He tried to get up.

Pain shot through his body, knocking him to the ground, breathless.

His left leg crumpled under him, broken. As the shock of the accident wore off, he felt pain shooting throughout his body.

Kemp called an ambulance and Chavez was transported to the hospital, where he was diagnosed as having a lacerated kidney, as well as the leg injury.

Gone were his chances at a national championship. Quite a shock for the second-ranked 147-pounder in the nation. Instead, he began fighting for his kidney. Because, as he says, "you can't fight with only one kidney."

"I couldn't believe it," he said, with a trace of sadness in

his voice. "I had trained so hard for that competition."

"I was ready for it too. I was in the best shape of my life and looking forward to starting the competition. I guess it just wasn't meant to be."

If this had been a fight, it would have been stopped without a count. But, this was life and life goes on.

So, Chavez began the hard road of rehabilitation, vowing to box again. Every day, four hours a day, he went to the a physical therapist.

With all his work, Chavez came up off the canvas to score a knockout against his injuries.

Eight weeks after suffering his injuries, Chavez was at the Western Box-Off in Colorado Springs, Colo. Without much boxing preparation, Chavez won the 147-pound class and the right to represent the West team in the Olympic Sports Festival in Houston during July.

But fate had another twist for Chavez.

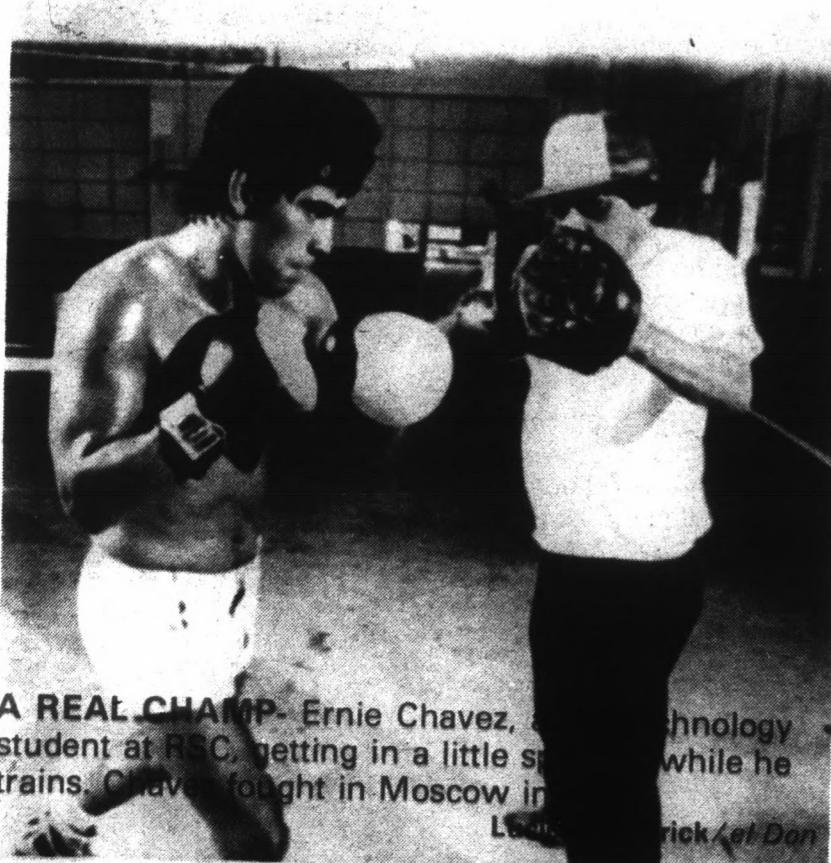
As the United States team was preparing to fly to Moscow for the Goodwill Games, the Defense Department barred all military members from competing. That decision decimated the boxing team, with 11 members, including nine boxers stopped from competing.

That opened the door for Chavez. After receiving a call from the executive director of the ABF, Chavez was on a plane to New York City. Two days later, he was on his way to Moscow.

"It was really a surprise to hear from the ABF," he said. "I wasn't really prepared to go to Moscow physically. I hadn't begun to train hard yet for the Sports Festival."

"But, I couldn't pass up the chance to fight internationally. That's what we are all trying to accomplish. So, I jumped at the chance."

Chavez acquitted himself well at the Goodwill games, winning his first decision by a 4-1 margin. Then, he met a tough Bulgarian in the second round, losing by a 5-0 score.



A REAL CHAMP- Ernie Chavez, a student at RSC, getting in a little sparring while he trains. Chavez fought in Moscow in

Lee Scheide el Don

Currently, Chavez is in training for the national team's trip to Sweden in October. The team will travel in Scandinavia for a month and Chavez is looking forward to the

experience.

"It will be great exposure for me," he said. "But, although I'm over there to box, I'll also be learning about other people and their culture."

"Hopefully, all my bad luck is behind me now. I just want to continue to box and hopefully make the 1988 Olympic team." Don't bet against him.

Volume L